**Alerts Monthly Status Report for February 1998**

**February Alerts In Process Review (IPR)**

During 10-12 February, Mr. Mark Philip hosted an Alerts IPR held in Fairfax, Virginia. Attendees included the Program Managers from DSDC, East, West and International districts, the Functional Sponsor, and the contractor ManTech. A wide range of issues were discussed, and a synopsis of selected topics follows:

- **Integrated Schedule:** The Alerts Team devoted several hours refining the Program's Phase II integrated schedule. The result was completion of a realistic baseline schedule, which will govern the activities of Phase II. The updated schedule was briefed by Mark Philip to the IT Working Group staff for inclusion in the Command's integrated schedule. Positive feedback was received, especially concerning the type and level of detail provided. A follow-on action is development of detailed training and installation plans for the districts. Key Phase II milestone dates are as follows:

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| Design & Development | 9 February – 6 November 1998 |
| Functional Test | 9 November – 28 December 1998 |
| Training CONUS & Americas | 18 January – 2 April 1999 |
| Training, DCMDI less Americas | 3 May – 30 July 1999 |
| Environmental Test | 5 – 30 April 1999 |
| FOC CONUS | 3 May 1999 |
| FOC OCONUS | 30 July 1999 |

- **Design Reviews:** As planned in the integrated schedule, the next significant Phase II event is the Alerts Preliminary Design Review (PDR), hosted by ManTech, 10-12 March 98. Goals of the PDR are to review the high level design, logical data model, and preliminary input/output format screens and reports. The PDR is soon followed by the Critical Design Review that will focus on the software design documentation, screens and database design.

- **ManTech Initiatives:** Mr. Tom Ray, ManTech's Program Manager, discussed the development of draft architecture for the Phase II application to include delay notice, CPSS, CAT and TASO subsystems. ManTech is also developing draft Web screens for the customer access subsystem, researching compatibility between Netscape Web server software and Oracle 8, and researching version requirements for Customer's Web Browsers (Internet Explorer and Netscape). Mr. Ray stated that the use of Oracle 8 would greatly enhance Alerts by adding inherent C3 security capabilities and increasing data replication reliability.

- **DCMC Office Computing Working Group (OCWG) Issues:** Critical technical design issues impacting Phase II Alerts development were raised during the IPR. As a result, the DCMC Alerts Program Manager requested that the OCWG answer the following questions:

  a.  Does the Command prefer or require the use of Visual Basic vice PowerBuilder in development of applications?

  b.  When will DCMC move to Oracle 8, i.e., can the next major Alerts release be designed to Oracle 8?

  c.  Which Web server and Web Browser are preferred or required?

  d.  When will the DCMC be fully operational with 32-bit operating systems?

- **Customer Compatibility:** The Alerts Team recommended contacting Alerts customer technical representatives about their computing capabilities.  A survey will be used to query our customers for information on configuration and specific version numbers of pertinent software.

- **Customer Deployment Plan:** Phase I deployment will conclude with a focused effort to market Alerts to significantly more external DCMC customers.  To kick-off this effort the Alerts Team is planning an Alerts Customer Product Show in Boston this May.  Customer attendance is expected to exceed one hundred.  In addition to this Alerts capabilities demonstration, numerous actions are underway to assist customers.  These include significantly expanding information found on the Alerts Web page to include hotlinks to related sites containing manuals and lessons learned documents, preparing instructions on how to become an interactive Alerts customer, and refining and standardizing help desk operations.

- **Risk Management Plan:** The Alerts Team reviewed and provided updates to the Plan.  Satisfactory progress continues in addressing and managing program risks for Phase II.

- **Phase II Training:** The FY98 and FY99 training plans were developed in detail to include the length and type of each training event, the number of students expected, and cost per student.  Training for the remainder of FY98 includes customer product training, train-the-trainer at external customer sites, and DCMC Americas, Puerto Rico training.   Training for FY99 includes train-the-trainer for end user and SYSOP personnel, CAO, database administrator, TASO and external customer training.  It is estimated that 9945 persons will receive some form of Alerts training during FY99.  It was also determined that the $160K FY98 training budget allocated for Alerts would exceed updated requirements due to Phase II schedule adjustments.  Funds were returned for use in other programs and the DCMC Alerts Program Manager requested funds for FY99 to support the extensive Phase II training program.

**Customer Deployment**

- On February 10<sup>th</sup> the Defense Supply Center Columbus (DSCC) became the fourteenth Customer site to become FOC with Alerts.

- The local DCMC Customer Liaison Representative (CLR) is working with the DCMDW F-shop on presenting an Alerts demo to San Antonio Air Logistics Center and Human Systems Center, Brooks AFB.

- The DCMC CLRs have been asked to comment on a proposal to have customers participate in a no-holds-barred, good news/bad news panel discussion of Alerts during the Alerts Customer Product Show.   They will also be requested to assist in bringing their applicable customer sites on-line with Alerts.

**International Deployment**

- DCMC Americas, Puerto Rico will receive Alerts training 3-6 March.  It is anticipated they will achieve FOC status late March, which is one month behind schedule.

**Program Objectives Memorandum (POM) Input**

- Work has begun for the POM 00-05 data call for DCMC Information Technology programs, to include Alerts.  The required form IT-43 and associated documentation should be completed in the near term.

**SDW/Alerts Interface**

- The SDW System Subsystem Specification was updated early February as a result of Alerts Team comments to the document.   An Interface Requirements Specification for the Alerts/SDW interface has been developed and a draft was released on 20 February. The IRS is currently under review.

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